

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-248

A RESOLUTION OF THE LODI CITY COUNCIL  
SUPPORTING A STATEWIDE BALLOT INITIATIVE  
TO REQUIRE VOTER APPROVAL BEFORE STATE  
GOVERNMENT MAY TAKE LOCAL TAX FUNDS

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WHEREAS, state government annually seizes over \$800 million in city property tax funds (ERAF) statewide, costing cities over \$6.9 billion in lost revenues over the past 12 years and seriously reducing resources available for local public safety and other services; and

WHEREAS, in adopting the state budget this year the Legislature and Governor appropriated local vehicle license fee backfill and redevelopment property tax funds that are needed to finance critical city services such as public safety, parks, street maintenance, housing and economic development; and

WHEREAS, the deficit financing plan in the state budget depends on a local property and sales tax swap that leaves city services vulnerable if the state's economic condition fails to improve; and

WHEREAS, the adopted state budget assumes an ongoing structural budget deficit of at least \$8 billion, putting city resources and services at risk in future years to additional state revenue raids; and

WHEREAS, it is abundantly clear that state leaders will continue to use local tax funds to balance the state budget unless the voters limit the power of the Legislature and Governor to do so; and

WHEREAS, the voters of California are the best judges of whether local tax funds should be diverted, confiscated, shifted, or otherwise taken to finance an ever-expanding state government; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of Voting Delegates of the League of California Cities, at its September 10, 2003 meeting, voted to sponsor a statewide ballot initiative to empower the voters to limit the ability of state government to confiscate local tax funds to fund state government; and

WHEREAS, the League has requested that cities offer support for a November 2004 ballot initiative that will allow voters to decide whether state government may appropriate local tax funds to fund state government operations and responsibilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Lodi that the City hereby expresses its strong support for a statewide ballot initiative to allow voters to decide whether local tax funds may be taken, confiscated, shifted, diverted, or otherwise used to fund state government operations and responsibilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council and staff are authorized to provide impartial informational materials on the initiative as may be lawfully provided by the City's representatives. No public funds shall be used to campaign for or against the initiative; and

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER that the residents of the City of Lodi are encouraged to become well informed on the initiative and its possible impacts on the critical local services on which they rely; and

RESOLVED FURTHER that the City Manager and/or City Clerk are hereby directed to send a copy of subject Resolution to the Executive Director of the League of California Cities.

Dated: December 17, 2003

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I hereby certify that Resolution No. 2003-248 was passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Lodi in a regular meeting held December 17, 2003, by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS – Beckman, Hitchcock, Howard, Land, and Mayor Hansen

NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None

ABSTAIN: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None

  
SUSAN J. BLACKSTON  
City Clerk